

A CHAMPION FOUND BY TELEPOST CROWD

Senator Owen Takes Up Cudgels for Scheme Courts Called Fraud.

FEDERAL INQUIRY ASKED H. Lee Sellers Wants Government to Take Concern Off His Hands.

Senator Owen of Oklahoma, chairman of the Senate Banking and Currency Committee, who has kept himself in the limelight during the discussion over the currency bill, is the sponsor before the Senate of a financial expert who is not so well known to members of Congress from the rural districts as to members from New York who read the metropolitan newspapers.

This expert is H. Lee Sellers, the Telepost man, whose activities were kept before the readers of THE SUN before the post office authorities raised its stock selling agency, the Sterling Telephone Corporation, and since that time, and who is now suspected of trying to have the Government take the Telepost off his hands.

More recently THE SUN has offered for the benefit of its esteemed contemporary the Congressional Record, the facts concerning the successful litigation of the New York Telephone Company against the Sellers outfit to enjoin the Telepost promoters from using the name of the Metropolitan Telephone and Telegraph Company, the original name of the New York Telephone Company, in pressing its stocks and bonds on the public, on the ground that the use of the name of the Metropolitan Telephone and Telegraph Company, the original name of the New York Telephone Company, was part of a scheme to defraud.

Court Called Name a Fraud. The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court was inclined to the same view of the Telepost change of name as the New York Telephone Company, and in granting the injunction Justice Scott said:

"The nation papers do not disclose and we are unable to conceive of any reason, except a fraudulent and reprehensible one, for the adoption by defendants of the name under which they have been so enjoined. The name is not fairly descriptive of any business in which they are engaged or propose to engage."

"They in fact do no business and are apparently engaged only for the purpose of issuing securities as subsidiaries or auxiliaries of a company proposing to build a projected line of telegraph between the city of New York and the city of Chicago. The case therefore presents strong reasons for the intervention of equity not only to redress the wrong done to the plaintiffs, or some of them, but to prevent a palpable fraud upon the public."

After being stopped from using the name in New York the Sellers concern moved over to New Jersey, and sought to establish headquarters there for the sale of \$2,000,000 worth of stock and the same amount of bonds. The New York Telephone Company started injunction proceedings in New Jersey, and being convinced that it could not win there, the Metropolitan Telephone and Telegraph name in peace. Mr. Sellers sat down and dictated a letter to his friend Senator Owen.

Senate Inquiry Asked. The matter of the Telepost was brought up in the Senate a few days ago when Senator Owen introduced a resolution asking that a committee be appointed to investigate and report on the sale of \$2,000,000 worth of stock and bonds, as to the word carrying capacity, accuracy, economy and general efficiency as to its use, in connection with the Post Office Department, and any obstacles to its use, either in connection with the Government or otherwise."

Senator Owen asked that the resolution be referred to the Senate Committee on Post Offices and Telegraphs, and after this had been done he said:

"Mr. President, I am well acquainted with the president and secretary of this company. I know them to be upright and honest men, and have personally investigated this matter, and I desire that a committee consisting of the chairman of the Committee on Post Offices and Telegraphs and two other Senators be appointed by the chairman to investigate the subject."

Senator Owen then announced that he was sending a letter from H. Lee Sellers to the desk and asked that it be printed in the Congressional Record. Many of the promoters are mailing broadcast the page from the Congressional Record containing the complimentary remarks by Senator Owen.

Old Arguments Used. The SEN is unable to state the extent of the "investigation" made by Senator Owen before he helped the Telepost stock sellers get valuable space in the Congressional Record, without printing and reading any of the affidavits before the Supreme Court in the New York Telephone Company's injunction suit supporting the Telepost change of name. Many statements the Sellers have made in public expense through the aid of the Oklahoma Senator.

Old Arguments Used. In the Sellers letter, dated September 16, he has incorporated many of the Telepost stock selling arguments used in its advertising matter for years, tells how the present telephone and telegraph companies have tried to throttle it and remarks that it has outgrown its Chicago and New York already secure it.

Mr. Sellers declared that J. P. Morgan & Co. had \$72,000,000 for independent telephone lines in Ohio which enabled wires to the Telepost system in which he does business between cities east of Chicago, and although J. P. Morgan & Co. insisted that the properties had been bought for investment the lease to the Telepost Company was cancelled.

The present scheme of the Sellers concern seems to be to induce the Government to take the Telepost off its hands and buy up the stock held by 17,000 persons who have little chance of getting anything for their money in any other way. In his letter Mr. Sellers said:

"Mr. Delany and ourselves as well have been the leading believers in Government ownership of telegraph and telephone lines. The Telepost can best serve the people of the country when it is owned by the Government in connection with the post office."

Tells of Cheaper Rates. Telepost rates, as stated above, are uniform throughout the country regardless of distance. As our lines are extended rapidly five cents will carry two miles connected by our wires. When the Government decides to own and control the telegraph business of the country, as is now the case in practically all nations, civilized and uncivilized, it should have the best.

It should handle the enormous business which will surely come when the shackles are taken off the telegraph service of the country by means of a system in which the wire has the word carrying capacity forty to sixty as now operated by the companies that have for so long con-

trolled the telegraph business of the United States.

"While we feel abundantly able to build up and make fully successful the Telepost as an independent telegraph company, and while the success of our enterprise will force the other companies to give lower rates and better service than are at present enjoyed we stand ready at any time to turn over all we have to the Government on terms that will be recognized as fair and reasonable, the chief feature being that our 17,000 shareholders, whose money and patience have enabled us to reach the position we now hold, shall be fairly and liberally dealt with."

THINK GIRL IN LAKE WAS SLAIN. Police of Three Cities Seek to Solve Mysterious Death.

FENTON, Mich., Nov. 23.—The police of Detroit, Pontiac and Fenton tonight are working to solve the mystery of the death of Miss Nina Covert, 21 years old, whose body was found floating in Square Lake near here.

Miss Covert left Fenton last Thursday to visit a brother in Detroit. Hammond Oakley, a friend, accompanied her part of the way. Thursday he received a letter from her, dated Detroit, in which she told of her intention to return home. En route home she stopped off at Pontiac to visit another brother, she bid him good-bye. That was the last seen of her alive.

"I am sure that Nina did not commit suicide," said Arthur Covert, a brother. It was either an accident or murder.

SAY CABINET LADIES ARE STILL SNOBBISH. Representatives' Wives Complain That Their Social Calls Are Not Returned.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23.—Some of the wives and other women of what is known in official society as the "Cabinet circle" have been much concerned over the complaint that their social calls on the representatives who have visited the recent social innovation by the Cabinet women—the decision, in brief, that they will not return the calls of the wives of Representatives.

This does violence to a traditional social custom that has obtained in Washington since the early days of the republic. It is whispered about Washington that the men have banished themselves in an effort to heal the soreness. As the result of some strong influence, social or political, or both, a statement was issued purporting to come from the wife of a member of the Cabinet in which she denies that the women of the Cabinet circle ever reached any such conclusion as has been attributed to them.

But the stern reply made to this by the wives of Representatives is that their calls have not been returned by the wives of Cabinet officers. The custom is for the wives of Cabinet officers and then for the latter to return the calls.

After the wives of several of the Democratic Representatives had complained to each other because the calls on the Cabinet circle had not been returned an inquiry was started and some one was informed that shortly after the inauguration of President Wilson the women in the Cabinet circle made an inventory of their social obligations and rebelled at the thought of having to pay personal calls on more than two women.

Wives of Senators, who are called on to call on the wives of ninety-six Senators and meeting other social obligations. The story goes that they decided to call on the wives of Senators, but to omit the wives of Representatives.

The situation, if it goes on unrelieved by some authoritative public statement from one or more of the Cabinet ladies, is likely to work a lot of embarrassment for the social side of the Wilson Administration in the coming season. A large number of the wives of Representatives have firmly resolved not to make any Cabinet calls until the order, which they verily believe has been made by the Cabinet ladies with respect to limiting calls, is rescinded.

That the wives of the Cabinet officers are somewhat disturbed over the situation is evidenced by the fact that they have sent peace embassies through the Congressional Club, an organization made up of the wives and daughters of Senators and Representatives, when three representatives of the Cabinet circle appeared at the reception.

Plan to Limit Calls. The plan to limit calls was disapproved by some of the Cabinet women and the olive branch was extended a few days ago at the weekly meeting of the Congressional Club, an organization made up of the wives and daughters of Senators and Representatives, when three representatives of the Cabinet circle appeared at the reception.

KNIFE IN MERCURY CASE FAILS. Woman Thought to Be Revolving, Dies—Other Patients Better.

Mrs. Thelma Pleasant, of 450 East 154th street, The Bronx, a bichloride of mercury victim, who was operated upon in the Fordham Hospital on Wednesday and whose condition was considered hopeful following the operation, died yesterday.

Mrs. Pleasant, the wife of Dr. Irving Pleasant, a dentist, took about thirty grains of the bichloride by mistake on Monday. Dr. Alexander Nichols operated on Wednesday, and at first it was thought that she would recover, but on Saturday Mrs. Pleasant's condition was worse.

There are two other mercury patients, both of whom have been operated upon. New Brighton, Staten Island, yesterday operated upon Thursday. The patient in the Fordham Hospital, was said to be recovering yesterday. The condition of Mrs. Leah Portel, operated upon Saturday in the Lehigh Hospital, was not so encouraging.

Mrs. Portel's daughter gave her fifty grains of bichloride of mercury dissolved in a glass of water by mistake on Friday. Dr. Parker yesterday performed the operation on Mrs. Portel.

Mrs. Helen Janin continued to gain strength at the S. R. Smith infirmary at New Brighton, Staten Island, yesterday and Dr. A. L. Thomas, who performed the operation on her kidneys, said last night that he was satisfied that his patient was practically cured.

Mrs. Janin sat up the greater part of yesterday afternoon and conversed with her little eight-year-old son, Jacob, Jr., and her husband.

Dr. Thomas called to Bayonne to perform an operation on a young man who took mercury by mistake. He could not recollect the young man's name.

Matthews Langan, 25 years old, an ironworker, was hospitalized at East Ninety-sixth street, last night with headache. He reached in a closet and took out a handful of what he thought were headache pills. He began to feel ill shortly, so he looked at the bottle. It was the bichloride of mercury bottle, and he had taken seventy grains of the poison.

BIG DEMONSTRATION AT BOOTH WELCOME

Three Thousand, Including Clergymen, Greet Salvation Army Head.

IS MOVED BY OVATION. Enthusiasm for Whitman Too—Gen. Booth Pays Tribute to Father's Work.

District Attorney Whitman shared honors with Gen. Bramwell Booth at a "welcome demonstration" to the commander in chief of the Salvation Army at Carnegie Hall yesterday afternoon.

It was the occasion of the General's first formal speech to a New York audience and more than 3,000 persons made it evident that they were glad to see and hear him. But the applause for the District Attorney was perhaps noisier and not less enthusiastic than the ovation to the distinguished visitor from England.

The reception to Gen. Booth started on the top of a clock which loudly tolled the hall with his sister, Commander Eva Booth, head of the American forces, and her staff officers and took his seat on the platform. Gen. Booth, who is a New Yorker, who acted as vice-presidents in his honor.

He responded to the demonstration by giving a military salute and then Col. William Powell, the secretary, announced a hymn "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" which was sung in the good old fashioned Salvation Army way. A band of 150 pieces, made up of the best of the New York bands from different parts of the country, saw to it that nobody dragged.

Miss Booth introduced Whitman. The Rev. Dr. S. Parkes Cadman of Brooklyn in the opening prayer gave thanks for the Salvation Army, which has aroused the churches from their complacency, and then Commander Eva Booth introduced District Attorney Whitman as presiding officer, saying: "We have a pleasure in having you here, a noble and unimpeachable character has endeared him to the citizens of New York."

As Mr. Whitman stepped to the front of the platform he bowed to every body that got up and applauded some more. "I have had the opportunity," the District Attorney said, "to see and to know the finer phases of our country's life and to be familiar with the instrumentalities which are at work to help the weak and erring, to lighten the burden of those who are heavy laden, to reclaim the fallen and to bring peace, quietude, patience and courage to the Salvation Army."

"I know that I am here making reference to the credit of the Salvation Army, a portion of your army is engaged in fighting for the right; that in other fields as well here as in all of the great cities of the nation, you have won your way to the hearts and confidence of the people."

"I cannot refrain from expressing my own appreciation of your noble endeavor, which has been a source of inspiration and where I have known of your triumphs, and I know that I express the sentiment of our city and of our people every time I see you in uniform, and when I see your honored commander, whose inspiring presence makes this occasion to be long remembered, that no visitor could come to us more welcome than he is."

Gen. Booth was very hoarse he called it a "brook in his throat" and spoke with great difficulty. He devoted the major portion of his remarks to the life of his father, Gen. William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army.

Pays Tribute to Father. "My father touched life at so many points," he said. "He was a thinker and a man seized with a scientific spirit. He was a worker, perhaps one among a million, but he was a true Christian. I really believe that my father loved God more because he saw what God could do for men."

"As an earnest worker, my father had been able to accomplish what he had and he replied: 'I made up my mind that God Almighty should have all there was of William Booth.'"

"I, your general, say to you Salvationists, keep that spirit of sacrifice in your life. Keep that before you. There is a place for suffering. We are to be a long suffering people for those who do not care for themselves."

"When my dear father was dying he put his hand in mine (he was blind) and said: 'Bramwell, promise me you will do all you can for the hopeless ones. Then he added whimsically: 'Mind, you don't let me haunt you.'"

"I can only say that after his reception at the City Hall on Saturday a man who was foreign born, came up to his carriage and said: 'General, I'm not you, but you belong to me, and then he kissed me on the cheek and said: 'We are the servants of all churches and of all mankind.' He added: 'I can say for the Army we belong to humanity. Send for us in sorrow, to look up your prodigals. We want to be servants of all men, as well as servants of God.'"

The Rev. Dr. Charles D. Mead, pastor of the Madison Avenue Methodist Church, in moving commendation of the District Attorney, chairman, said that he was glad the law and the gospel had joined hands.

The Rev. Dr. Parkhurst pronounced the benediction.

Gen. Booth preached last night to a large crowd in the Lyric Theatre.

COCAINE SELLER ARRESTED. Assistant District Attorney Says Whitman Is After Wholesaler.

Another prisoner caught in District Attorney Whitman's crusade against cocaine dealers was arraigned in the West Side court yesterday. He was John Gravino, 24 years old, of 261 West Sixty-first street, who was arrested Saturday night by Detective Leigh of the District Attorney's staff.

Leigh says that Gravino, who poses as a chauffeur, had a quantity of cocaine. Leigh found three loaded revolvers in Gravino's home and made an additional charge of violating the Sullivan law against him. Assistant District Attorney Whitman, who represented Mr. Whitman, told Magistrate Murphy of his chief's desire to get at the wholesalers and asked that Gravino be held in high bail. The Magistrate fixed bail in \$2,000 on each charge.

TICKET BUYER ARRESTED. Special Policeman Takes Purchaser, Not Not Speculator.

A purchaser of a speculator's theatre ticket was arrested last night instead of the speculator. The Police Theatre, where the management has taken the speculator nuisance into its own hands by employing special policemen.

According to John Rich, a special policeman, he warned a man who gave his name in the West Forty-seventh street police station as Herman Wankrow, a cotton broker, of 62 Chrystie street, that if he bought a ticket from the speculator with whom he was negotiating the ticket would be refused at the door. The ticket was purchased, he said, around the corner, and the holder was refused admittance.

Mr. Wankrow, according to the theatre management, would not take his money back at the box office. He was insistent on getting in that Rich took him to the police station.

LEAPS TO DEATH FROM FERRY. Boats Search River for Mile; Fail to Find Man.

The Leonia of the Fort Lee ferry line was in midstream bound for the New Jersey side last night when a man vaulted over the stern, said "Good-bye" and dropped into the water. He was not seen again.

The Leonia, which has no searchlight, and the Englewood, New York, went out to sweep the river with its light. The two boats steamed down stream for a mile and put out small boats before they gave up the effort.

The body was described by a deck-hand as being about 30 years old and well dressed in dark clothing.

RAILROAD MEN BEGIN RATE FIGHT TO-DAY. Interstate Board to Hold First Hearing on 5 Per Cent. Increase.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23.—A small army of railroad men, headed by President Willard of the Baltimore and Ohio and President DeLoe of the Wabash system, will appear before the Interstate Commerce Commission to-morrow in the initial hearing of the application of the carriers operating east of the Mississippi and north of the Ohio and Potomac rivers to increase rates on an average of 5 per cent.

Five hundred and ninety carriers in the nation named are directly involved, but actually over a million in the United States are concerned. If the commission authorizes the railroads in what is known as official classification territory to increase rates they will be granted carriers in other sections.

Railway men contend that the future prosperity of the country is dependent upon alternative action by the Interstate Commerce Commission in this rate matter. Every day in New York, quietly, patiently and courageously by the Salvation Army.

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VOICE RESCUED FOR STAGE BY ACCIDENT. Girl Who Came From Indiana to Sing Found in Factory by Mary Nash.

This is a little story of New York life in which sheer chance, a lucky accident, rescued a young girl from the drudgery of a clothing factory and gave her an opening for her career on the stage.

Five weeks ago Nina Barbour, 19, pretty and slight of figure, came here from Indiana ambitious to make her way as a choir singer. In the little town where she was born and brought up she had studied the art of singing and had trained a deep, rich contralto voice.

She sang in the Presbyterian choir and took part in amateur performances of operas and in her town her voice was generally praised. When she made up her mind to come to New York and try for the prizes that come to choir singers of ability she left her father and mother and friends discouraged her. She persisted and left home confident that she would succeed.

Turned Away by the Churches. She had \$100, the money she had saved. It would be enough, she thought, to keep her until her voice won employment. But day after day she was turned away from the churches, always hearing the choir boys were full or that no application so inexperienced could be taken without a recommendation from a known teacher.

The money disappeared as her hopes fell. Two weeks ago she landed in New York, being penniless in a city where she had not even acquaintances.

Miss Barbour went the rounds of the department stores asking for work and for a chance to sing. She took her name out of her waiting lists and promised to let her know when a place was open. She was disappointed when she met a young man who was looking for a singer and who advised her to apply to an East Side skirt and shirtwaist manufacturer who gave out piece work to be done at home.

For a man Miss Barbour got work which paid her \$2.50 a week, although she had to sew from breakfast to bedtime, often working fourteen hours. Her employer told her she could earn more by working in the factory. He offered her a regular place, which she was glad to take because it paid \$6 a week.

How Opportunity Came. The girls in the factory were Jewish and Irish and mostly cheerful young women who made friends with the girl from Indiana. In the noon hour after eating their lunch they sang songs and danced. One day it was last Friday—Miss Barbour had been in the factory a week and she had been told to sing. She did her best for her new friends and when she saw that they were pleased she sang again. The day was mild and the windows were open. A crowd gathered on the sidewalk. People looked toward the windows.

A taxicab returning from Brooklyn broke down at the corner of Broome street and the Bowery. Its passenger was Mary Nash, the star of "The Lark." Miss Nash heard the fall, deep contralto tones coming from the open windows and was so greatly interested that she sought out the singer while her taxi was being repaired.

The actress told the rest of the story last evening as she sat in the parlor of 112 West Forty-third street with Miss Barbour, her protegee.

She was perfectly amused to hear such a splendid voice just off the Bowery," said Miss Nash, "and when I saw the singer I was more astonished. That so tiny a girl as Miss Barbour here could produce the deepness and fullness and strength of those contralto tones being 'me!' I spoke to the proprietor of the factory. He said, 'I know she can sing. I have told her she ought to make her voice work for her.' Right there I made up my mind that papa had to give this girl her opportunity. Papa, you know, is Philip F. Nash, who is manager of the vaudeville United Booking office."

"Certain to Make Good." "I took Miss Barbour out of the factory and had her sing for papa. He was pleased and guaranteed her an engagement in vaudeville. I am at work now trying to get a little act together for her and getting a few simple little costumes ready. She is certain to make good."

Members of the society of the Daughters of Indiana have taken an interest in the young singer and will see to it that she does not have to worry about money until she can earn plenty. Mrs. George Austin Wyeth of the society communicated with Miss Barbour yesterday and other members are to call on her to-day.

FROM STREET TO STAGE. Capstone Violin Artist Is "Discovered" and Gets Engagement.

Salvatore Bellini, a curbside violin virtuoso, tucked his violin under his arm Saturday afternoon and wandered from Mulberry Bend to West Forty-fifth street, where he has a few simple little costumes ready. She is certain to make good."

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Ernest R. Holmes Kills Himself by Taking Gas. Ernest R. Holmes, 40 years old, a travelogue lecturer for the Board of Education and a conductor of parties for Thomas Cook & Sons, committed suicide yesterday by inhaling gas in a room on the fourth floor of 307 East Seventeenth street.

His body was found with a gas tube in his mouth and a jet turned on. His death was said by friends to be due to despondency over continued ill health. He left a note for Robert C. McElroy, secretary of the board, in which he said that his wife, who is in Kansas City, had notified a bank book was found containing \$110 to be used for funeral expenses.

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RED-MAN COLLARS. THE THREE LONG POINT COLLARS YOU SEE WORN EVERYWHERE. EARL & WILSON MAKERS OF TROY'S BEST PRODUCT. FALL SHIRTS NEW PATTERNS UNIQUE COLORINGS \$1.50 TO \$10.

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WIRELESS TELEPHONE MEN ON TRIAL TO-DAY. De Forest, J. D. Smith, Derby and Burlingame Charged With Swindling.

Discontinued lines of men's shoes have marching orders. 2888 pairs, including patent leather, button and lace; enamel leather, lace; gun metal, lace and blucher; vic kid, lace. Sizes 5 to 11, in widths AA to E. 1491 pairs were \$5.00. 1397 pairs were \$6.00. \$3.25.

Buy It For One Week And See For Yourself How It Will Help You In Business. 5 cents a copy. The Journal of Commerce At All News Stands Or at Your Home.

WATCH THE BIG CLOCK SALE. Every Tuesday and Friday until further notice, from 8 A. M. till 12 o'clock. Be sure to get in line and be in time to get the Biggest and Best Alarm Clock in the market for 50c worth \$2.50. Also bottle of Polish for 50c.

MASON'S Furniture and Carpet House. Established 70 Years on Corner of Myrtle Ave. & Bridge St. Coupon: Brooklyn, N. Y. Present Coupon for this Great Bargain Coupon 6-6.

SHOE MANUFACTURERS DEFIED. Unions at Lynn, Mass., Refuse to assist for Graded Waage. Lynn, Mass., Nov. 23.—The local unions affiliated with the shoe trade in Lynn have turned down the request of shoe manufacturers of this city for a graded wage scale. Just what action manufacturers will take is a matter conjecture. The proposition offered is a promise of increased business amounting to several million dollars annually, and the decision of the unions is regarded by the manufacturers.

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